### INDIVIDUAL PROPERTY/DISTRICT MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST INTERNAL NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM

Property/District Name: West Baltimore Street Bridge	Survey Number: B-4516
Project: Rehab	Agency: DPW
Site visit by MHT Staff: <u>X</u> no <u></u> yes Name	Date
Eligibility recommended $X$ Eligibility <b>not</b> recomme	ended
Criteria: <u>X</u> A <u>B X</u> C <u>D</u> Considerations: <u>A</u> B	CDEFGNone
Justification for decision: (Use continuation sheet if nec	cessary and attach map)
Based upon the information provided, including the MHT Investigations of the West Baltimore Street Bridge over the ( Street Bridge is eligible for listing in the National Regis	Gwynns Falls, " the West Baltimore
The West Baltimore Street Bridge, constructed between 193 Department of Public Works, is located in the west portion of Baltimore Street over the Gwynns Falls valley and the CSX Maryland Railway). The West Baltimore Street Bridge consist structure constructed of reinforced concrete and extending	f Baltimore City and carries West Railroad (formerly the Western s of a three-span, open spandrel
The West Baltimore Street Bridge meets Criterion A of the N terial expression of the early 20th-century urban and traditimore City. The bridge's location across Gwynn Falls access to the developing neighborhoods of western portions of was constructed as a part of the Civil Works Administrat Program. As such, the construction of the bridge is direct supported works projects during the Depression.	ansportation planning efforts in was intended to provide enhanced of the city. Further, the bridge ion-Public Works Administration
The West Baltimore Street Bridge also meets Criterion C reinforced concrete structure of the bridge, and its place or namentation are distinctive characteristics of Depression of In addition, the bridge reflects the characteristics of an The bridge crosses the Gwynn Falls Valley, which was part of design of the bridge was likely influenced by the Plan, and existing park environment.	ain, arched design with minimal era bridge construction projects. urban bridge in a park setting. E the Olmstead Plan of 1904. The
Documentation on the property/district is presented in:Review	w and Compliance Files
Prepared by: <u>H. Henry Ward, Archeology and Historic Pre</u> Brinckerhoff, Inc.	eservation Coordinator, Parsons
Beth Hannold and Kim Williams Februar  Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services	y 12, 1996 Date
program concurrence:yes no not applicable	Transfer and Trans
Quanto Redonti 2-13	A
Reviewer NR program	Date

Survey	No.	B-4516

#### MARYLAND COMPREHENSIVE HISTORIC PRESERVATION PLAN DATA - HISTORIC CONTEXT

I.	Geographic Region:				
	Eastern Shore Western Shore	(all Eastern Shore counties, and Cecil) (Anne Arundel, Calvert, Charles, Prince George's and St. Mary's)			
X	Piedmont	(Baltimore City, Baltimore, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Howard, Montgomery)			
	Western Maryland	(Allegany, Garrett and Washington)			
II.	Chronological/Developmental Pe	riods:			
X	Paleo-Indian Early Archaic Middle Archaic Late Archaic Early Woodland Middle Woodland Late Woodland/Archaic Contact and Settlement Rural Agrarian Intensification Agricultural-Industrial Transi Industrial/Urban Dominance Modern Period Unknown Period ( prehistor	A.D. 1815-1870 A.D. 1870-1930 A.D. 1930-Present Oric historic)			
III.	Prehistoric Period Themes:	IV. Historic Period Themes:			
	Subsistence Settlement  Political Demographic Religion Technology Environmental Adaptation	Agriculture X Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Community Planning Economic (Commercial and Industrial) Government/Law Military Religion Social/Educational/Cultural X Transportation			
V. R	esource Type:				
	Category: <u>Structure</u>				
	Historic Environment: <u>Urban</u>				
	Historic Function(s) and Use(s)	: Road-related/bridge			
	N				
	Known Design Source: Baltimore City Department of Public Works				

#### Maryland Comprehensive Preservation Plan Data

Region:

Piedmont

Periods:

Modern Period, 1930 - present

Themes:

1. Transportation

2. Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Community Planning

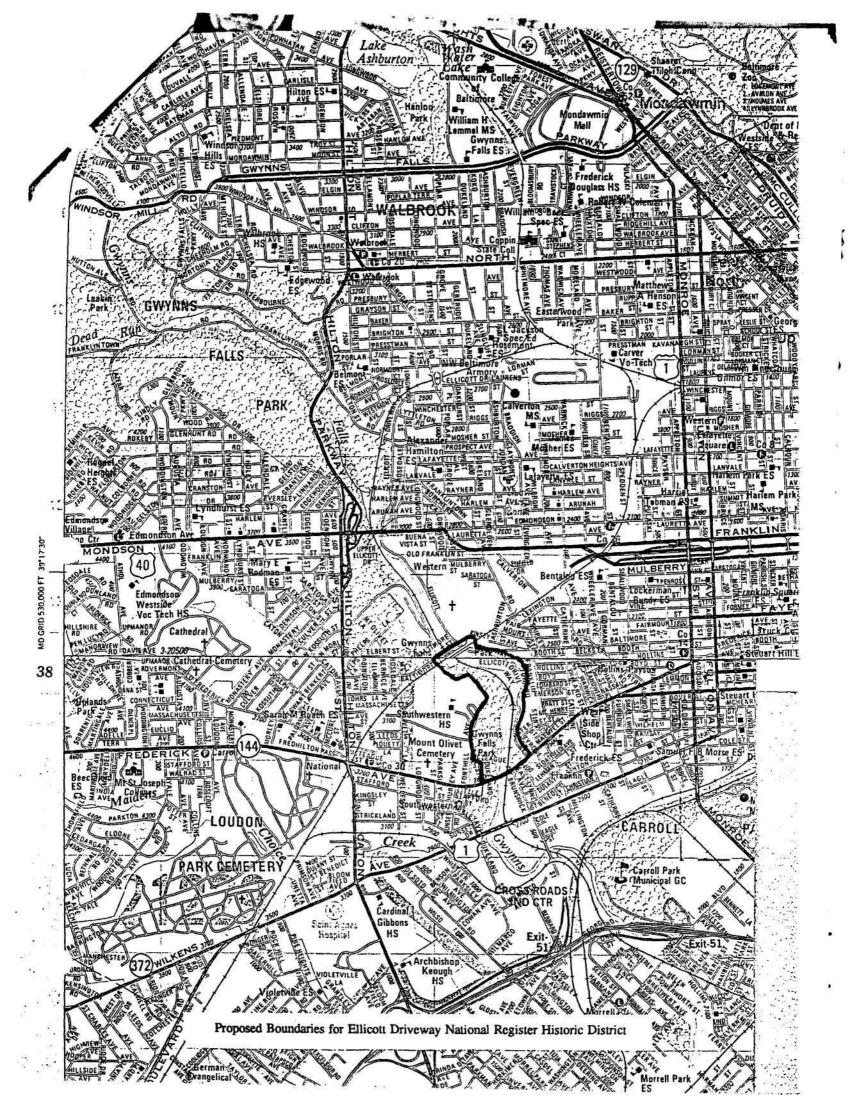
Resource Type:

1. Category: Structure

2. Historic Environment: Suburban

3. Historic Functions and Uses: Bridge

4. Known Design Source: Baltimore City Dept. of Public Works



A Bridge Inspection Report of the Baltimore Street Bridge indicates that the overall condition of the bridge is poor. Previous inspections of the deck floor system has indicated that the sidewalks are heavily worn with exposed aggregate and approximately 20 percent of the top surface is disintegrated as deep as two inches in several areas. Exposed aggregate, minor cracks and discoloration are typical throughout the parapets, with disintegration up to 3/4-inch deep and several popouts exposing corroded reinforcing steel. Over each deck joint, the bituminous roadway pavement has a full-width crack up to 1/4-inch wide, and several joints are missing filler material.

A 10-foot section of the north parapet near the east abutment has been reconstructed. While most of the deck underside is not visible due to timber formwork, several exposed areas reveal failed shotcrete patches and spalls with exposed corroded reinforcing steel. Two four-inch diameter holes in the deck have developed in the center span near the west pier and several other holes have been covered or patched. Both approach pavements have settled up to two inches and the timber southwest approach guardrail does not conform to current standards.

Though the West Baltimore Street Bridge is still used as a pedestrian and vehicular transportation route, weight limits restrict the use of the bridge by heavy vehicles. The bridge also has undergone numerous (usually unsuccessful) repair efforts such as superstructural concrete patches, substructural shotcrete reconstruction, and roadway "patchwork" repairs with incompatible materials. The original decorative cast iron light standards are no longer in place and mounting brackets/pier surfaces are missing and/or in severely damaged condition. A large (approximately 10 foot) section of the north parapet had become so severely deteriorated, that it has been completely reconstructed.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Greiner, Inc. <u>1992 Bridge Inspection Program, Baltimore Street Over Gwynns Falls and CSX</u>, for the Baltimore City Department of Transportation (Baltimore: Greiner, Inc., 1992), 16-19.

provided for in building roads.<sup>1</sup> In Maryland, the number of motor vehicles increased from 103,000 in 1920 to 320,000 in 1929. The United Railways Company, which operated streetcars, buses and "trackless" trolleys, declared bankruptcy in the 1930's, further encouraging the popularity and necessity of the automobile. At the same time, more public resources were channeled into the construction of highways, bridges, viaducts and other transportation facilities.

With the early 20th century growth in land area, population and improved transportation networks extending into the suburbs, the character of Baltimore City and the travel patterns of its residents were significantly altered. Since major streams bisected the city, bridging the streams at intervals was necessary to facilitate intracity communications and commerce. Street extension necessarily meant the extension of the existing below-ground utilities. Consequently, Baltimore's major streams and great valleys were crossed only at a few strategic points such as: the Gwynns Falls by Edmondson Avenue, Baltimore Street, and Wilkens Avenue, and Stony Run by Huntington Avenue and University Parkway (Merryman's Lane)."<sup>2</sup>

The topography of the Gwynns Falls valley inhibited access from the east portion of Baltimore to the west. At least two separate primary resource documents suggest that the West Baltimore Street Bridge may have been intended to assist in the physical development of the City as well as to expand the City's economic opportunities. The circumstances surrounding the opening of the West Baltimore Street Bridge included a change in Baltimore's Mayoral Administration and the onset of the Great Depression. Baltimore Mayor William F. Broening (1919-1923 and 1927-1931) was finishing his second term in office. The new mayor, Howard W. Jackson, assumed office in 1931; thus, the West Baltimore Street Bridge project was conceived during Mayor Broening's administration and constructed during Mayor Jackson's tenure. Mayor Broening, in one of his regular public addresses on the status of city projects, offered many reasons for the construction of the West Baltimore Street Bridge.<sup>3</sup> The reasons enunciated by Mayor Broening can be distilled into the following primary issues:

- Additional (Faster) Access
- Convenience/Safety for Gwynns Falls Junior High School Students
- Relieve Congestion on Edmondson and Frederick Avenues
- Open West Side for Future Development

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> State Roads Commission of Maryland: <u>A History of Road Building in Maryland</u> (Baltimore: State Roads Commission, 1958), 48.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Sherry H. Olson, <u>Baltimore</u> (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1980), 254.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Editor, "Mayor Broening Tells of City's Progress" in <u>The Municipal Journal</u>, (Baltimore, January 16, 1931), 6-8.

#### Additional Tax Base from New Development.

With financial support from the federal government, Mayor Jackson's municipal relief efforts, through the actions of the Civil Works Administration (CWA) and the Public Works Administration (PWA), comprised a substantial portion of the economic development in Baltimore during the Depression. The CWA and PWA hired workers from the public assistance rolls and projects such as the West Baltimore Street Bridge were constructed. Such projects were selected for their value as future public assets, as well as for their potential for employing people and their chances of getting started quickly. It was this stream of government projects that made the Depression a Baltimore City-building period.<sup>4</sup>

The construction of the West Baltimore Street Bridge occurred during the period of increased reliance on the automobile as Baltimore expanded and during Mayor Jackson's municipal works efforts to provide employment relief during the Depression. The West Baltimore Street Bridge was constructed as a part of the Civil Works Administration -- Public Works Administration program and the construction of the bridge is directly associated with the federally supported works projects during the Depression. Although the historic significance of the West Baltimore Street Bridge relates to National historic developments (Depression Era public works projects), it represents a local expressed reaction to these broader historic events.

#### Criterion C

Criterion C, (relating to distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction), provides another basis on which to evaluate the West Baltimore Street Bridge. The West Baltimore Street Bridge reflects the characteristics of 1) an urban bridge in a park setting; and 2) early 20th century bridge design.

The Olmsted Brothers, a landscape architecture firm founded by Frederick Law Olmsted, Sr. and his brother John Law Olmsted, and later continued by Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., were invited to prepare a plan for development of the 1888 Baltimore City annex (that included the Gwynns Falls valley) and include municipal parks and parkways which was later termed the Olmsted Plan of 1904. The Olmsted Brothers' reputation was based on their experience as consultants on the development of large projects such as Yosemite National Park, Central Park in New York, Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and the grounds surrounding the Capitol in Washington, D.C. The

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid., 341.

younger Olmsted is particularly noted for his contribution to local Baltimore landscape architecture projects such as the Johns Hopkins University campus, the neighborhoods of Roland Park and Sudbrook, and the tree-lined avenue along 33rd and Charles Streets and University Parkway.

The Olmsted Brothers envisioned the stream valleys as individual parklands, each highlighting its own distinctive topography, forest, meadow or boulder landscape and connected by curving and landscaped roadways such as Ellicott Driveway, Hilton Street, and Gwynns Falls Parkway. The Olmsted Brothers' ideas of enhancing and preserving the natural setting of the piedmont landscape likely influenced the design for the West Baltimore Street Bridge to harmonize with the existing park environment, to connect with the sinuous Ellicott Driveway (landscaped by the Olmsted Brothers), and to maintain an area of open space within the city limits. However, it is certain that the location of the West Baltimore Street Bridge was influenced by the Olmsted Plan:

"Various propositions have been made for bridges across the deep valley of Gwynns Falls between Frederick Road and Edmondson Avenue. Among these, a direct westward extension of Baltimore Street has been strongly advocated; but the angle at which this street meets the valley is such that the cost of constructing a viaduct...would be extravagant. We recommend a viaduct running on the shortest line across the valley, in a southwesterly direction from a point opposite the end of Baltimore Street extended."

A report prepared by the Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation (CHAP) has determined that the West Baltimore Street Bridge may be a contributing resource to the potentially National Register-eligible Ellicott Driveway Historic District. As indicated above, development of both the West Baltimore Street Bridge and Ellicott Driveway were influenced by the Olmsted Brothers. The CHAP report further describes the connection between the West Baltimore Street Bridge and Ellicott Driveway based on the Baltimore City Municipal Journal's promotion, between 1915-1917, of the construction of Ellicott Driveway:

"On January 8, 1915, an article entitled "To Extend West Baltimore Street to Ellicott Driveway and Eliminate a Grade Crossing" described a deal negotiated by the Pennsylvania Railroad, Baltimore City and the Western Cemetery. In order for the Pennsylvania Railroad to maintain a safe and proper approach to their new bridge over Gwynns Falls, they needed to run their tracks on the southern tip of the Cemetery. In return for this

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Olmsted Brothers, <u>Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore</u> (Baltimore: The Lord Baltimore Press, 1904), 95.

portion of land the Railroad built a new entrance to the cemetery from Ellicott Driveway, deeded land north of the tracks approaching the viaduct, and built a wall between the new cemetery land and the railroad's land. In the end, Baltimore Street was successfully extended to Ellicott Driveway, a dangerous grade crossing disappeared, and the railroad maintained a proper approach to its viaduct."<sup>7</sup>

Sherry Olson also provides a description of the "clean lines, stone work, lightness of cement work, and landscaping (that) mark (public works projects at that time) as PWA projects, which contrast with massive works of the 1950's. This style of construction and the natural design of the Olmsted Brothers' surrounding landscaping projects may well have influenced the design of the West Baltimore Street Bridge.

Further, several engineers commented on bridge design during the early phase of reinforced concrete use. Henry G. Tyrrell provided the most comprehensive recommendations for aesthetic bridge design, many of which seemed to be reflected in the design of the West Baltimore Street Bridge. In <u>Artistic Bridge Design</u> (1912), Tyrrell asserted that bridges are considered beautiful when they fulfill the following requirements:<sup>9</sup>

- Conformity with environment -- "In wooded parks, a rustic bridge fits better into the landscape... in a wild mountain gorge, large spans of bold design without applied ornament are best."
- 2. Economic use of material -- "Beauty exists in the structure with the greatest simplicity, fewest members and most pleasing outline."
- 3. Exhibition of purpose and construction -- "Strength and boldness should predominate."
- 4. Pleasing outlines and proportions -- "Arches must be perfect curves."
- Appropriate but limited use of ornament -- "Superfluous decoration has a minifying effect."

Tyrrell further suggests that an "uneven number of spans is always preferable, for the eye is better satisfied with an opening rather than a pier at the center" and "bridges with several spans should have the longest at the center and adjoining ones should decrease in length towards the

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Eric L. Holcomb, <u>Historic Ellicott Driveway in the Gwynns Falls Valley, Baltimore, MD</u> (Baltimore: CHAP, 1994), 7.

Blbid.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Henry G. Tyrrell, <u>Artistic Bridge Design</u>, (Chicago: Myron C. Clark Publishing Company, 1912), 20-22.

B-4516 West Baltimore Street Bridge Baltimore, Maryland Section 8.5

ends."<sup>10</sup> Specific elements of the West Baltimore Street Bridge which help to define this character include: reinforced cast concrete construction, uneven number of spans, geometric perfect arches, rectangular pier columns with simple geometric ornamentation, open spandrel arches, solid parapet construction with limited perforations/minimal recessed detailing and restrained deck fixtures (simple cast iron light standards and bronze commemorative plaques), and placement of an urban bridge in a park setting. The combination of the above recommendations (and the appearance in Tyrrell's book of several sketches of bridges very similar in design to the West Baltimore Street Bridge) suggests that the design of the West Baltimore Street Bridge may have been influenced by the architectural concepts included in early 20th century design books (including Tyrrell's).

Integrity of the resource is also important to the issue of significance. The most important aspects of the bridge's integrity relate to the associated criterion of original materials and workmanship. Although the West Baltimore Street Bridge retains much of its original structural fabric and has not undergone a major reconstruction, the remaining fabric is in a heavily deteriorated condition as indicated in the previous description of the bridge that appears in Section 7.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Ibid, 44.

#### **Major Bibliographical References**

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Editor. "Mayor Broening Tells of City's Progress", The Municipal Journal, January 16, 1931.

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Hilton, G.E. "Historical Sketch of Bridge Development in Baltimore", <u>The Monthly Journal of the Engineers Club of Baltimore</u>, V. 2, No. 4 & 5, February and March 1913.

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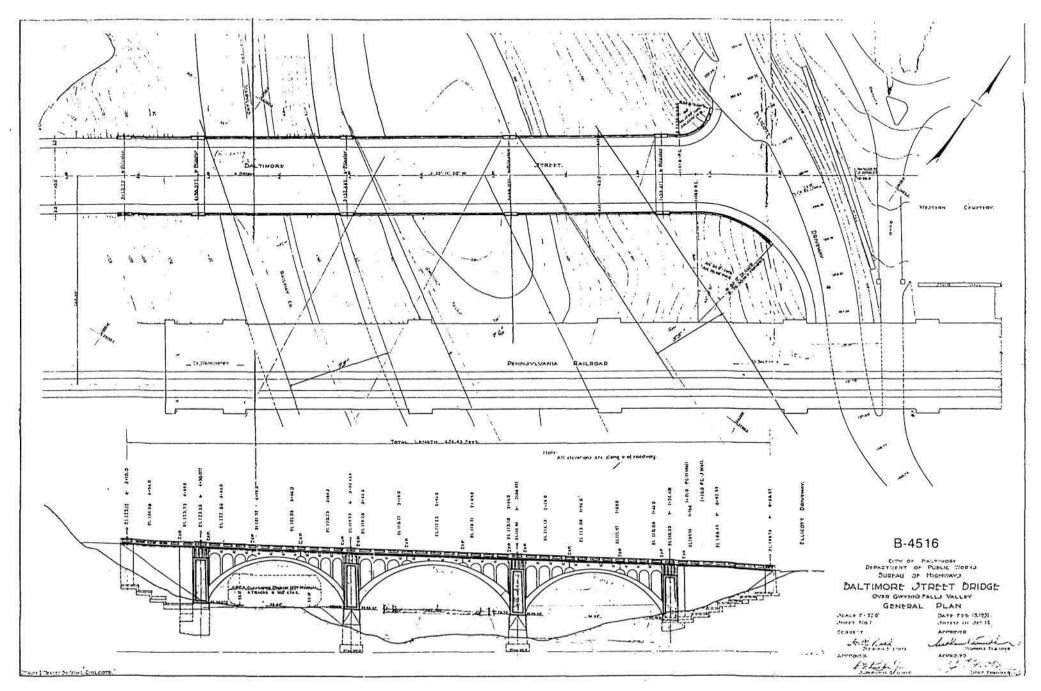
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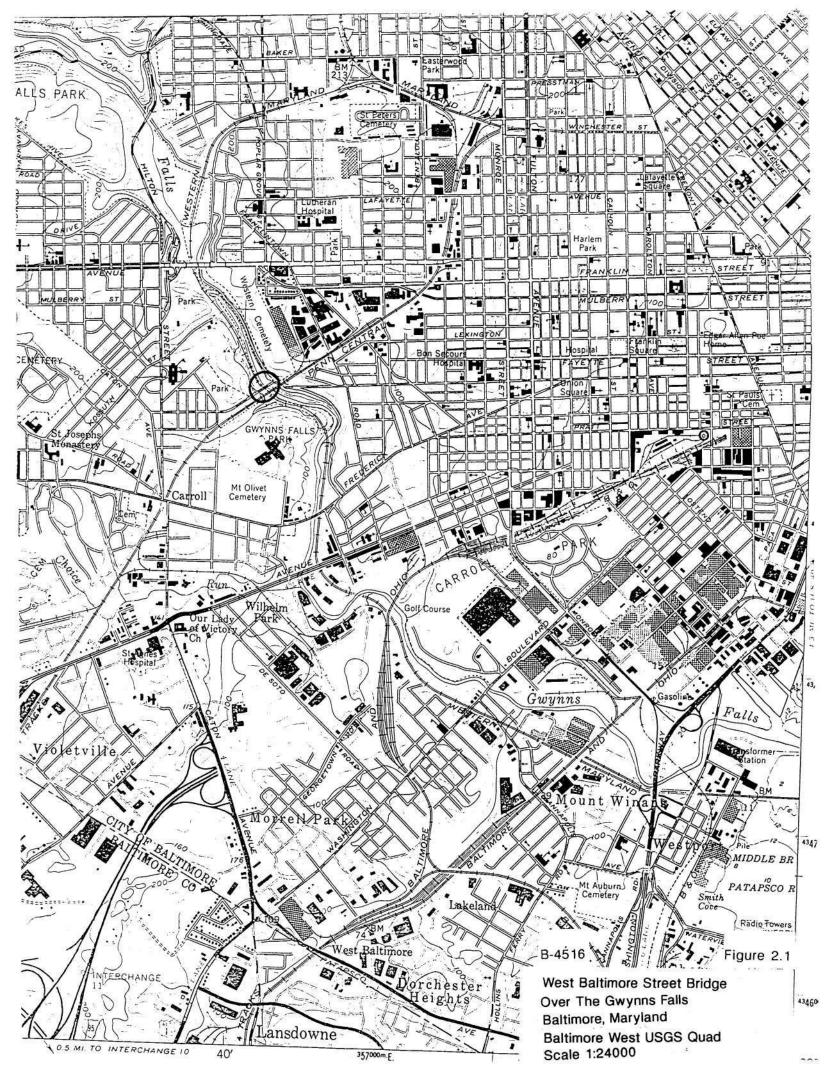
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Waddell, J.A.L. Bridge Engineering, 1916.





Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties number: B-4516

Name: PAUTIMORE ST. OVOZ GWYNDS FRUSO CSK

The bridge referenced herein was inventoried by the Maryland State Highway Administration as part of the Historic Bridge Inventory, and SHA provided the Trust with eligibility determinations in February 2001. The Trust accepted the Historic Bridge Inventory on April 3, 2001. The bridge received the following determination of eligibility.

MARYLAND H Eligibility RecommendedX	TORICAL TRUST Eligibility Not Recommended
Criteria:ABXCD Considerati  Comments:	ns:ABCDEFGNone
Reviewer, OPS: _Anne E. Bruder	Date:3 April 2001 Date:3 April 2001

MHT No. B-4622

## MARYLAND INVENTORY OF HISTORIC BRIDGES HISTORIC BRIDGE INVENTORY MARYLAND STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION/MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

SHA Bridge No. BC 2402 Bridge name Baltimore Street over Gwynns Falls at CSXRR (Baltimore Street Bridge)

LOCATION: Street/Road name and number Baltimore Street
City/town Baltimore City Vicinity
County Baltimore
This bridge projects over: Road Railway _X Water X Land
Ownership: State County Municipal _X_ Other
HISTORIC STATUS: Is bridge located within a designated historic district? Yes No National Register-listed district National Register-determined-eligible district Locally-designated district Other Name of district Name of district
BRIDGE TYPE: Timber Bridge : Beam Bridge Truss -Covered Trestle Timber-And-Concrete
Stone Arch Bridge
Metal Truss Bridge
Movable Bridge : Swing Bascule Single Leaf Bascule Multiple Leaf Vertical Lift Retractile Pontoon
Metal Girder :  Rolled Girder Rolled Girder Concrete Encased Plate Girder Plate Girder Concrete Encased
Metal Suspension
Metal Arch
Metal Cantilever
Concrete X :  Concrete Arch X Concrete Slab Concrete Beam Rigid Frame
Other Type Name

#### **DESCRIPTION:**

#### **Describe Setting**

Bridge BC 2402 carries West Baltimore Street over Gwynns Falls and the CSX Railroad on the west side of Baltimore City. Baltimore Street runs in a generally east-west direction over the southern flowing Gwynns Falls. The bridge is located in a park and residential area. The bridge carries 4 lanes of traffic in opposing directions and is located adjacent to Gwynns Falls Park and the Greenway and Western Cemetery.

#### **Describe Superstructure and Substructure:**

Bridge BC 2402 is a triple span, open spandrel concrete arch bridge. The concrete arch bridge is 326 feet long. It has clear spans of 100 feet, 115 feet, and 100 feet. The rises of the arches are 31 feet 9 inches, 32 feet 7 inches, and 31 feet 9 inches, respectively. The bridge carries a 40-foot roadway section with a bituminous wearing surface supported by a reinforced concrete deck. There is an overall bridge width of 54 feet 11 inches. There are 8 longitudinal reinforced composite concrete interior beams that support the deck and an exterior composite concrete beam on each side that support the solid concrete parapets. The parapets are 3 feet 8 inches in height, and have coping and inscribed paneled section ornamentation. There are concrete sidewalks that are 6 feet in width. According to a 1995 inspection report, the bridge is in poor condition with a sufficiency rating of 3.0.

The exterior beams are supported by 10 curved exterior cantilever overhangs that bear directly over the 6-spandrel columns, which in turn bear on each arch and diminish in height from end to center. The bridge has 2 arch ribs for each span, which support a series of lateral spandrel walls. The spandrel walls in turn support the longitudinal beams. The tops of the columns are joined by an arched section.

At each pier there is an elaborate paneled pilaster on each fascia. The piers are rectangular shafts, hollow with noses, and are constructed on spread footings, as are the abutments. The abutments are massive and have stepped footings. The front of each abutment has a pilaster matching that of the pier fascia.

The bridge carries 3 utilities. Looking west, on the exterior side of the first interior concrete beam there is an electrical duct, between the seventh and eighth interior beams there is a 24 inch water main, and on the exterior of the eighth beam there is a 24-inch sewer main. Originally, there was an ornamental light post at each pilaster, but these have been replaced with modern luminaries. The bridge has 2 bronze plaques dated 1931, which bear the title "Baltimore Street Bridge" and list the various officials and engineers significant to the project.

#### **Discuss major Alterations:**

A 10-foot section of the north parapets has been reconstructed. It is also evident that the bridge has been repaired many times in the past with numerous patches. Most of this cosmetic work was performed in the 1980s.

#### **HISTORY:**

WHEN was bridge built (actu	ial date or date range)	<u>1931</u>
This date is: Actual $X$	Estimated	
Source of date: Plaque _X_	Design plans	County bridge files/inspection form
Other (specify)		

WHY was bridge built? To connect the east and west sides of the City of Baltimore, creating a major transportation route to the Port of Baltimore, and eliminating a natural barrier to the development of Baltimore City, the Gwynns Falls Valley

WHO was the designer? Baltimore City Department of Public Works

WHO was the builder? W.C. Briddell Company of Baltimore City

WHY was bridge altered? N/A

Was bridge built as part of an organized bridge-building campaign? No, this bridge was not built as part of an organized bridge-building campaign.

#### SURVEYOR/HISTORIAN ANALYSIS:

This bridge may have National Register significance for its association with:

A - Events X B- Person \_

C- Engineering/architectural character X

This bridge was determined eligible by the Interagency Review Committee in September 1996.

#### Was bridge constructed in response to significant events in Maryland or local history?

Yes, the Baltimore Street Bridge was constructed in response to the development and growth of the city after World War I. The city experienced a surge in population, both from immigrants from Europe, migrating southerners, African-American farmers, and war veterans. There was also a strategic city planning movement in effect at this time. Additionally, the bridge was a major project built during the height of the Great Depression. The construction of this bridge followed the New Deal Program policies, enacted by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and encouraged by Baltimore Mayor Howard W. Jackson, and provided employment relief for the citizens of Baltimore. The location of the Baltimore Street Bridge was influenced by several environmental factors, including the need to maintain an open space within the city, to connect the Ellicott Driveway with Baltimore Street, and to develop a structure that would harmonize with the existing park environment.

According to the <u>Report Upon the Development of Public Grounds for Greater Baltimore</u>, dated 1904 and written by Frederick and John Olmsted:

Various propositions have been made for bridges across the deep valley of Gwynns Falls between Frederick Road and Edmondson Avenue. Among these, a direct westward extension of Baltimore Street has been strongly advocated; but the angle at which this street meets the valley is such that the cost of constructing a viaduct...would be extravagant. We recommend a viaduct running on the shortest line across the valley, in a southwesterly direction from a point opposite the end of Baltimore Street extended.

The Baltimore Street Bridge project was conceived under the administration of Mayor William F. Broening and constructed under the administration of Mayor Jackson. According to Mayor Broening in one of his public addresses on the status of city projects, including the construction of the Baltimore Street Bridge, in January 1931:

In my opinion this is a much-needed improvement that has been neglected already for too long a time. The people in the Western section have at the present time only two approaches to their section—one by the way of Edmondson Avenue Bridge and the other by the way of the Frederick Avenue Bridge.

In that Hilton Street section between Edmondson and Frederick Avenue there are form 3,000 to 4,000 home. These people at the present time, despite the fact that they are very close to the center of the city, must lose form 5 to 8 minutes in walking to either the Edmondson Avenue or the Frederick street cars...Half way between Edmondson Avenue and Frederick Avenue we have Gwynns Falls Junior High School which is attended by some 2,600 pupils. Quite a few of these children live on the east side of Gwynns Falls and you can readily imagine what a great convenience this will be for those children to walk right across the Baltimore Street Bridge into their high school...This bridge will open up a new artery and will relieve a congestion on the Edmondson and Frederick Avenues. With the construction of this bridge automobiles can move directly to the west and empty into Edmondson Avenue near Rognel Heights. With the great development in row houses that is going on in the Edmondson Avenue section the need for an additional artery becomes more and more apparent. I understand that the United Railways and Electric Company has already run a bus service form Allendale Road and Edmondson Avenue to Charles and Baltimore Street upon the completion of this bridge.

In addition to these reasons which I think are sufficient to justify the expenditure of this money, we will open up for the development in that section of the city a lot of property which at the present time while not inaccessible is virtually shut off to any development because of lack of transportation facilities and because of the round-about way that one must go in order to reach the center of the city. I believe that the great development will take place, not only in row houses, but also in apartment houses, will place on the tax

books of our city additional property with a taxable basis that will contribute largely towards the defraying of expenses in the construction of this bridge.

### When the bridge was built and/or given a major alteration, did it have a significant impact on the growth & development of the area?

Yes, the Baltimore Street Bridge is a key link between east and west Baltimore and definitely was a key to the growth and development of the west side after World War I. It became a major commercial artery to the east side as well with the development of Baltimore Street into a major trucking route to the harbor and its factories. Since it has deteriorated, the heavy truck traffic indicative of commerce and economy that once used the bridge has been forced to use other routes. According to the Annual Report of the City Engineer dated 1932, "upon completion (the bridge) will, no doubt, be the means of developing a large amount of property in that section, thus adding materially to the taxable base is in the City." Furthermore Mayor Jackson stated at the bridge opening ceremony that "the bridge marks an important step in the further development of this section of the city. The Gwynns Falls Valley for many years has been a natural barrier to quick communication between that older section of the city to the east of the valley and that ever-growing section to the west." In response to its construction a census tally can verify the tremendous growth in this area between the early 1930s and the 1950s.

#### Is the bridge located in an area that may be eligible for historic designation?

No, the bridge is not located in an area that is eligible for historic designation.

#### Is the bridge a significant example of its type?

Yes, Bridge BC 2402 is a significant example of an intact, although deteriorated, 3 span open spandrel concrete arch bridge built during the 1930s, of which few remain. Because of the site conditions of the cemetery and the park, Baltimore City engineers chose to design this arch bridge which highly compliments the area. The implementation of concrete arch bridges, particularly in valleys of moderate size and park settings was the vogue at the time, and implemented much more often than the mundane and prosaic multi-span steel girder bridges. Of course, with labor being relatively inexpensive during the Great Depression, the arch bridge was cost effective, despite the intensive framework required for this type of structure. Architectural and engineering expression is brought out in this bridge with its well-defined pilasters, balustrades, and pier sections as wells as the balanced arches. The bridge satisfies the requirements of a well laid-out structure with its unequal spans, conformity to the environment, economic use of materials, and well proportioned members.

#### Does bridge retain integrity of important elements described in Context Addendum?

Yes, Bridge BC 2402 does retain the integrity of all its primary and secondary character defining elements, though most are in advanced stages of deterioration.

#### Is bridge a significant example of work of manufacturer, designer and/or engineer?

Yes, the bridge is a significant example of the work of the City of Baltimore Department of Public Works in the 1930s.

#### Should bridge be given further study before significance analysis is made?

No, the bridge does not require further study.

#### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

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City of Baltimore, Department of Public Works, Bureau of Transportation, Bridge Design Section Department Records.

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Tyrell, Henry G.
1912 Artistic Bridge Design.

#### SURVEYOR/SURVEY INFORMATION:

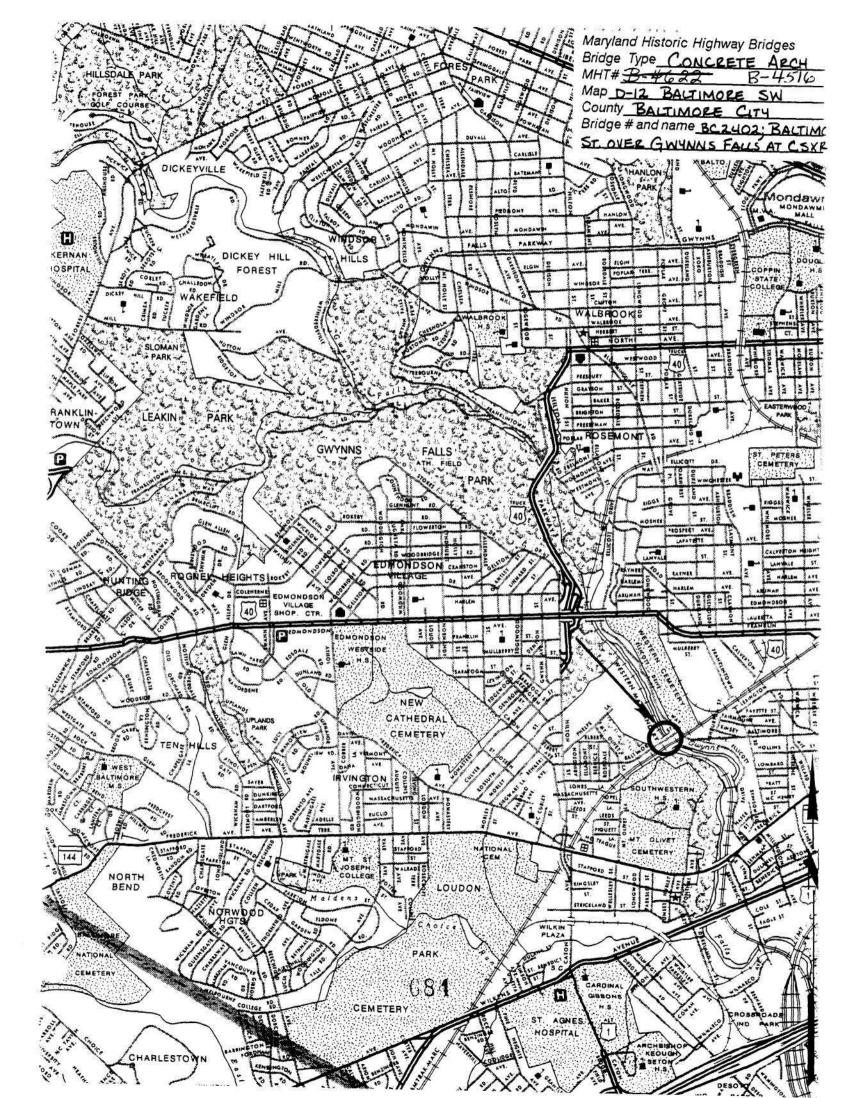
Date bridge recorded September 9, 1996

Name of surveyor James T. Aguirre

Organization/Address State Highway Administration, 707 North Calvert Street, Baltimore, MD

Phone number 410-545-8559

Revised by P.A.C. Spero & Company, April 1998





Inventory #_	B-4516
2402	- BALTIMORE STREET OVER
Name GW	YNNS FALLS AT COX RR
County/State	BALTIMORE CITY / MD
Name of Pho	tographer TIM SCHOEN
Date 1/95	
Location of N	Negative SHA
Description	WEST APPROACH
Number	10=4



B-4516
Inventory # <u>\$-4622</u>
2402 - BALTIMORE STREET OVER GWYNNS
Name FAUS AT CSX BR
County/State BALTIMORE CITY/MD
Name of PhotographerTIM SCHOEN Date95
Location of Negative SHA
Description EAST APPROACH
Num 2 084



	ALLS AT CSX RR	_
County/State	BALTIMORE CITY/MD	_
Name of Pho	otographer TIM SCHOEN	_
Date \	95	
Location of	Negative SAR	_
	TO PLAQUE @ EAST END OF SOUTH PARAPET	



Inventory # B 4622 B-4516
Inventory # 15 1622
Name 2402 - GWYDDS FALLS AT CSXRR
Name 2402 - GWYNNS FALLS AT CSXRR
County/State BALTIMORE CITY, MO
Name of Photographer Tim Schoen
Date 11/95
Location of Negative SHA
Description NORTH ELEVATION
4 5
Number 4004
WIIII 4 0 F 4

## Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form Magi No. DOE X yes \_\_no

# MARYLAND INVENTORY OF

Survey No. B-4516

1. N	lam	e (indicate	preferred name)		
historic	West	Baltimore Street	Bridge		
nd/or co	mmon				
2. L	.oca	tion			
street &	number	West Baltimore	Street Bridge over the	e Gwynns Falls —	not for publication
ity, tow	n Bali	timore,	vicinity of	congressional district	7
state	Mary	yland	county		The state of the s
3. C	las	sification			
Categor distraction distr	rict ding(s) cture	OwnershipX public private both Public Acquisition in process being considered _X not applicabl	Status  occupied  unoccupied  work in progress  Accessible  yes: restricted  X yes: unrestricted  no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific X transportation other:
			erty (give names an		
		Baltimore, Dept. 417 E. Fayette S	of Public Works, Bure Street		on •••(410) 396-6802
ity, towi			state	and zip code Maryla	and 21201
5. L	.oca	tion of Le	gal Description	n	
ourthou	ıse, regis	stry of deeds, etc. Abe	l Wolman Municipal Bu	ilding	liber
	number				folio
ity, towi	n Balt	imore.		state <sub>N</sub>	Marvland
			n in Existing		
itle H	istori	c Ellicott Drivew	vay in the Gwynns Falls	s Valley	
iate O	ctober	1994		federal stat	e county X loca
eposito	ry for su	rvey records Commiss	ion For Historical and	100	
	n Balt				Maryland

## 7. Description Survey No. B-4516 Condition Check one Check one

Condition		Check one	Check one		
excellent	_X deteriorated	unaltered	_X original s	site	
good	ruins	_X altered	moved	date of move	
fair	unexposed				

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

#### Contributing Resource Count: 1

The West Baltimore Street Bridge, constructed between 1931-32, is located in the west portion of Baltimore City and carries West Baltimore Street over the Gwynns Falls valley and the CSX Railroad, formally the Western Maryland Railway (see Figure 1). The West Baltimore Street Bridge consists of a three span, open spandrel structure that is 152 meters (491 feet) long and constructed of reinforced concrete. The center span is 32 meters (103.52 feet) and the two ends span 29 meters (94.7 feet). Each span contains six spandrel columns which diminish in size toward the center of the arch (see Figure 2).

The West Baltimore Street Bridge contains a reinforced concrete deck 12 meters (40 feet) wide between curbs and a six-foot sidewalk on each side. The reinforced concrete parapet consists of a solid panel type design with simple rectangular, horizontal, recessed panels. This simple geometric ornamentation is also exhibited on the support piers, which are cast with rectangular, vertical, recessed panels. The pier columns are surmounted with simple geometric capitals, with divided dentils which flare away from the face of the pier out to the base of the deck. The parapet panels are separated by concrete vertical posts at regular intervals and also contain windslots (open space) between the top of the sidewalk and the bottom of the parapet panels to aid in keeping the sidewalk free from snow, leaves and debris. Contemporary light fixtures have replaced the original, decorative, cast iron lamp standards. The bridge contains two similar, original bronze dedication plaques, one at either end of the bridge on the east side parapet panels.

The setting near the West Baltimore Street Bridge contains primarily residential and park uses. Land use in the immediate vicinity of the West Baltimore Street Bridge includes the Gwynns Falls Greenway on the east bank of the Gwynns Falls stream, the Western Cemetery located less than 46.5 meters (150 feet) from the east end of the bridge, CSX Railroad tracks located under the bridge to the south, property owned by Genstar Quarry adjacent to the west bank of the Gwynns Falls stream, and residential uses surrounding the bridge and immediate environs. The Pennsylvania Railroad viaduct, located approximately 23.25 meters (75 feet) to the southeast of the West Baltimore Street Bridge, is similar in concrete arch design and pre-dates the West Baltimore Street Bridge.

SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEET

Period	archeology-historic agriculture _X architecture art	그렇게 아내는 아이들 아이들 아이들 아이들이 아들아 아이들이 아이들이 아이들이 아니는	landscape architectu law literature military music t philosophy politics/government	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater _X transportation other (specify)
Specific date	<b>1</b> 931 <b>-</b> 1935	Builder/Architect <sub>W.C.</sub>	Briddell Company/Bal	ltimore City Dept
Арр	and/or	_B X_C _D  A _B _C _D  national state	of E _F _G	Public Works

Survey No. B-4516

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The West Baltimore Street Bridge, constructed between 1931-32, was found to be potentially eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C. Criterion A, (relating to significant events in history or an historical trend), is relevant due to the bridge's apparent relationship to the planned development in the western portion of Baltimore City and for its association with the economic development and public works history of Baltimore during the early 20th century. The siting of the bridge facilitated vehicular and pedestrian travel over the Gwynns Falls Valley and enhanced access to the developing neighborhoods in the western portion of the city. Criterion C, (relating to distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction), is relevant due to the bridge's aesthetic elements that characterized the design of reinforced concrete arch structures in the early 20th century. Specifically, the design of the West Baltimore Street Bridge reflects an uneven number of spans, geometric perfect arches, minimal ornamentation, and the placement of an urban bridge in a park setting.

#### Criterion A

8. Significance

Criterion A, (relating to significant events in history or an historical trend), is relevant due to the bridge's apparent relationship to the planned development in the western portion of Baltimore City and for its association with the economic development and public works history of Baltimore during the early 20th century.

The West Baltimore Street Bridge is a material expression of the early 20th century urban and transportation planning efforts in Baltimore City. The planned urban expansion of Baltimore began with the annex by the city of 23 square miles of land in 1888, including the Gwynns Falls valley. The "auto age" in Maryland began toward the end of 1907 as the Geological Survey Commission mentioned that rubber-tired automobile should henceforth be considered and SEE ATTACHED CONTINUATION SHEETS

### 9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No. B-4516

See attached continuation sheets.

10. Geograpi	hical Data			1
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C		D		
Verbal boundary description	on and justification			
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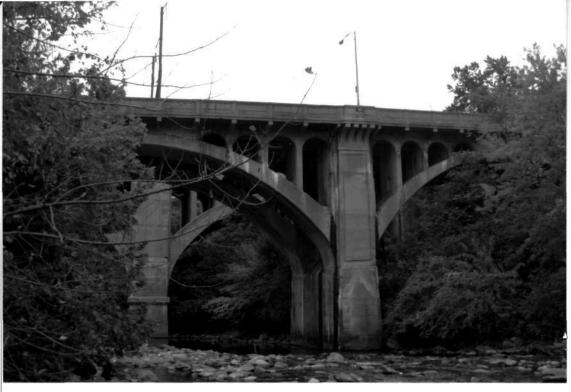
The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

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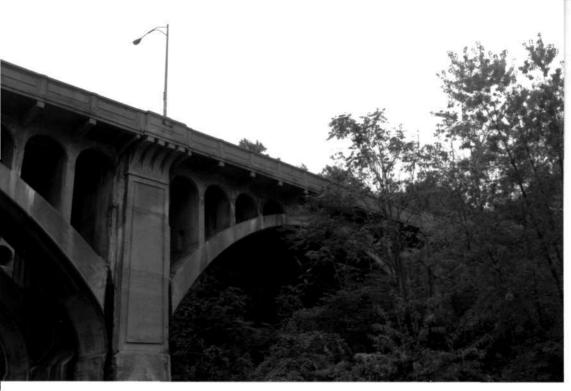
Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401 (301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
-514-7600



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Proportion A. Reynolds
10/11/94
Negative submitted 55HPO
West elevation

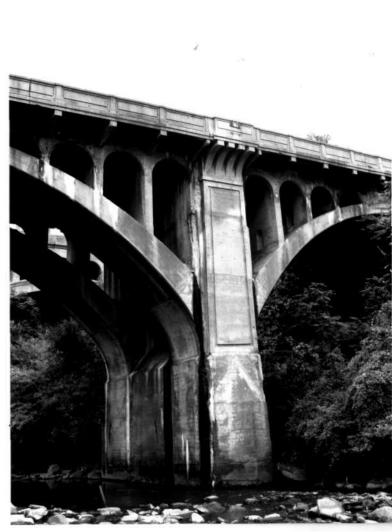


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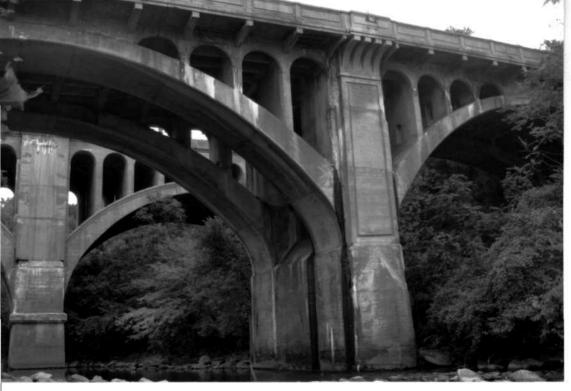
West Baltimore Street Bridge
Baltimore, MD
Photographer: A. Reyndds
10/11/94
Negative submitted to SHO
West Elevation
20/36



West Baltimore Street Bridge Paltimore, MD A. Reynolds 10/11/94 Negative @ MD SHPO West Pier



Regarde @ NIDSHPS



West Baltimore Street Bridge
Britimore, MD
Photo: A. Reynolds
10/11/94 @ MD SHPO
Negative a MD SHPO



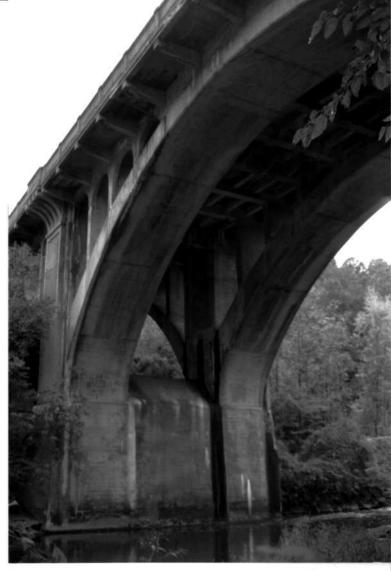
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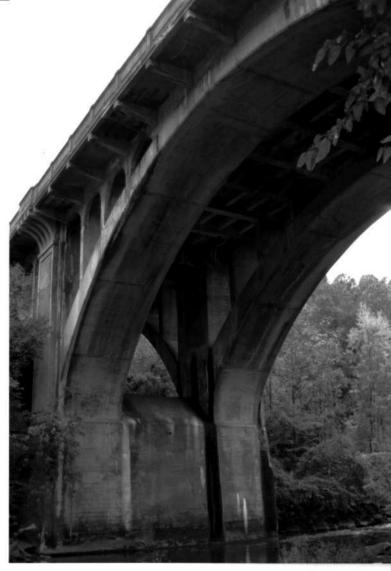
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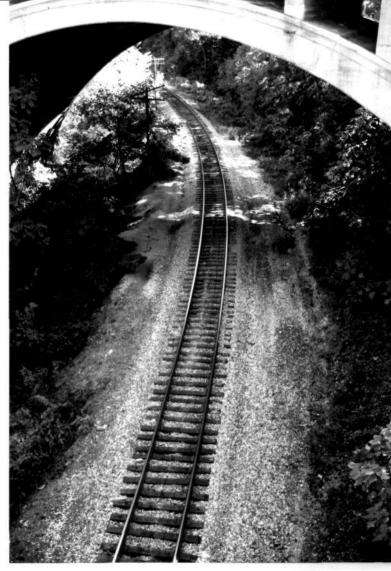


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B-4516 West Baltimore St. Bridge Baltimore, MD Photo: A. Reynolds Ne cative @ MD SHPO Gwynns Falls Valley facing





B-4576 Wost Buldinore St. Bridge Baltmore, MD Photo; A. Reynorlas Ne cature CSX tracks hinder 180,36

## CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS. BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS

BALTIMORE STREET

BRIDGE

MAYORS WILLIAM F. BROENING

CHIDE DINGINGERS CHARLES F. GOOB BERNARD L. CROZIER

HOWARD W. JACKSON NATHAN L. SMITH, HIGHWAYS ENGINEER H.F.LUCKE JR., SUPERVISING ENGINEER W. C. BRIDDELL CO. INC., CONTRACTORS

B-4516 West Baltimore Sti Baltimore, MP Photo: A. Roynolds Negative @ MDSHPO Bronze Plaque

## CITY OF BALTIMORE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUREAU OF HIGHWAYS

BALTIMORE STREET BRIDGE

MAYORS WILLIAM F. BROENING

HOWARD W. JACKSON

19.31

CHIEF ENGINEERS CHARLES F. GOOB BERNARD L. CROZIER

NATHAN L. SMITH, HIGHWAYS ENGINEER H.F. LUCKE JR., SUPERVISING ENGINEER W. C. BRIDDELL CO. INC., CONTRACTORS

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B-4516 Nest Baltimore StiBr Baltimore, MD Photo: A. Reynolds Negative @ MD SHPO Facing north east 21436



13-4516 West BaltimoreSt. Baltimore, MD Photo: A. Reynolds 10/11/94 Negative OMD SHPO Gwynns Falls Valley



B-4516 West Baltinore St. Bridge Baltimore Att Photo: A Reynolds Negative @ MD SHPO CSY tracks



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Battimore, MD
Photo: A. Reynolds Negative @ MDSHPO Concrete Spall on deck 25 4 36.



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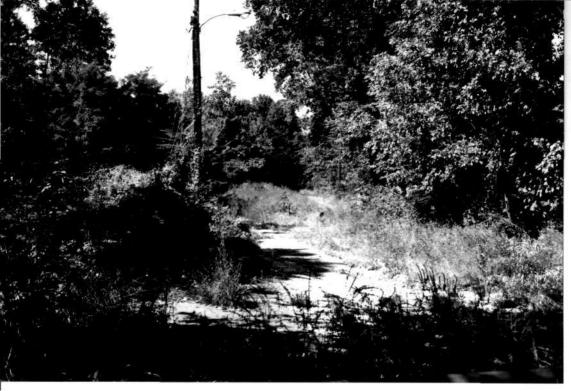
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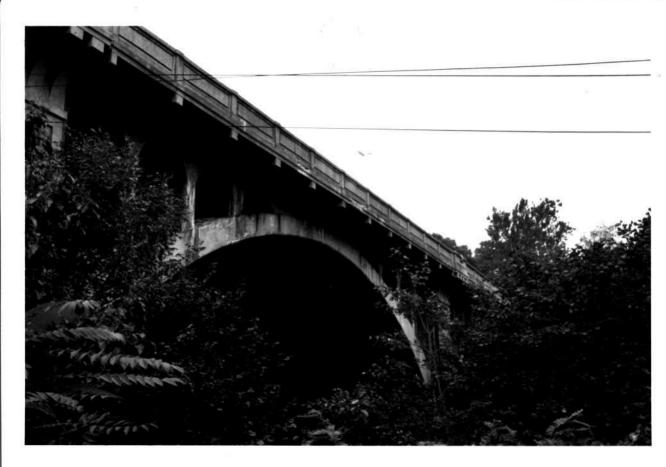
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BALTIMONIE, MARYLANDO
PLOTO: EDDIE LEON. CHAN

OCT. 1994

NEG. LOL. COMMISSION FOR HISTORICAL & ARCHITECTURAL

PRESERVATION

BALTIMONIE, MD

WEST ELEVATION

BALTIMORE ST. BRIDGE